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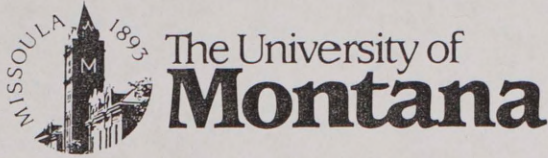
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NEWS RELEASE

Nov. 4, 2005

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'CREATURES' EXHIBIT FEATURES ARTISTIC PORTRAYALS OF ANIMALS

MISSOULA—

Wild and domesticated animals are the subjects of works that will be exhibited at the Montana Museum of Art and Culture from Tuesday, Nov. 22, through Wednesday, Dec. 21.

"Creatures from the Permanent Collection" will be in the museum's Paxson Gallery, located in The University of Montana's Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center. The exhibit appeals to all ages and is free and open to the public.

An opening reception will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, at the gallery.

Artist portrayals of animals reveal much about our relationship with them. Images of wild animals sometimes embody sublime beauty, while domesticated "beasts of burden" are integrated into peaceful, pastoral landscapes. Pet companions often are lovingly anthropomorphized. A playful surrealism can animate scenes with a variety of creatures, allowing us to imagine narratives that parallel and depart from our everyday lives.

"Creatures from the Permanent Collection" spans various approaches, from the historic to the dreamlike. It includes works by internationally known artists such as Andy Warhol and regionally important artists such as Edgar Paxson, Walter Hook and Steve Glueckert. Viewers also will be able to see works from the museum's permanent collection that have never before

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been exhibited, such as the painting of a lion by 19th century French academic painter Jean Leon Gerome.

At noon on Thursday, Dec. 1, Professor Kerry Foresman of UM's Division of Biological Sciences and Barbra Brady of the Humane Society of Western Montana will present a talk at the gallery titled "Framing Creatures: The Wild and the Domestic."

Foresman has lectured and published extensively on native mammals of the Rocky Mountains. He will talk about the wild creatures in the exhibit.

Brady is an independent curator and animal publicist at the Humane Society of Western Montana. Her work has benefited hundreds of homeless pets. She will share her understanding of issues facing domestic animals.

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 4 to 8:30 p.m. Free parking now is available near the northwest corner of the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center.

For more information about this exhibit or the Montana Museum of Art and Culture, call (406) 243-2019 or go online to <http://www.umt.edu/partv/famus>.

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